

Williams returns to Loakes Park — as captain

UTILITY defender Rob Williams, who left Wycombe Wanderers in February after three years with the club, will be coming face to face with his former Wycombe colleagues, when Kingstonian visit Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday) for the first Rothmans Isthmian League Division One game of the new campaign.

In addition he has been given the extra responsibility of leading Kingstonian whom he joined in the close season, after a short spell at Enfield. Wycombe manager Brian Lee paid this tribute to Williams, at the time of his departure saying, "Rob is a great competitor and in that sense there is none better."

Williams will no doubt be trying to live up to those words tomorrow, and it is for those qualities that Mr. Lee described that he has been made captain just for the day. In their two pre-season friendlies, the side has been led by Bob Adaway, who has played nearly 400 first team games for the club.

Kingstonian's form in the two friendlies is pretty impressive. In the first they beat Epsom and Ewell 3-1, but the result that singled them out as a first rate side came last Friday when they fought a 1-1 draw with Luton Town, the newly promoted Football League Division One side.

Luton sent down a pretty strong side too, with goalkeeper Barber, defenders John Faulkner and Shanks, and old campaigner Rodney Fern. Perhaps the most interesting person in that side was Australian World Cup star Adrian Alston, who scored Luton's only goal.

New signing Micky Cook, Kingstonian's first permit player was the other scorer in a match of many skills. The K's more than held their own with Ian Bath, their new goalkeeper from Hayes producing a splendid game.

SUDDEN EXODUS

Cook and Bath are just two of the men signed up by manager Vince Burgess after sudden exodus in the weeks running up to the season. Former 'keeper John Overton and England centre-half Mick Preston both left to join Sutton United.

In addition, Trevor Waughman their leading scorer with 29 goals last season, has returned to Woking, while John Doyle and Dave Juneman have gone to Leatherhead and Tooting respectively.

But manager Burgess soon managed to find some replacements. As well as those already mentioned, he has recruited mid-field player Dave Leonard from Sutton, and front runners Dave Skinner and Ron Fruen from Leatherhead.

In the corresponding game last year, Wycombe won 1-0 with a superb goal from Micky Holfield. The Kingstonian side, attempting to gain revenge is: I. Bath; R. Adaway, J. Clarke, A. Hill, P. Proctor, R. Williams, M. Cook, D. Leonard, R. Fruen, S. Esslemont, D. Skinner. Sub M. Roach.

There is no news on the Wycombe side as yet, although it is expected that Dave Bullock, a regular centre-back last season, will move to the left-back spot, now that the talented Alan Phillips has come in at centre-half.